

## What to Expect - Newborns

*After reading this, if you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me.*



### **Newborns**

In a word, with newborn shoots, prepare yourself for lots feeding, pooping, weeing, waiting and, most important of all, some amazing, timeless images.

The relationship between yourselves and me, as the photographer, is an important one, and I always like to get to know you a little better before working together. If you've made a booking with me, or even if you're just thinking of doing so, I always like to have an initial chat via the phone a day or two before your session. This helps me to understand what you want from the shoot and what your photo priorities are as well as running through final preparations.

First things first, you need to select a date around your due date. This will initially be set at approximately one week after your due date, although I usually leave some free days either side because, as you know, newborns tend to arrive in their own time and on their own terms! Once your baby is born, please call me within the first day or two to firm up the time and date for the shoot. If you'd like a shoot very soon after the birth, please ensure that your initial contact with me is before your baby is expected. Even if a photography shoot is an afterthought and your baby is already born, just contact me as soon as possible and we can work together to arrange a session for you.

Newborns are best photographed within 5-10 days of birth because this is when they are most sleepy and it's easier to get them into those curly, posed positions. Also, they just look super cute and tiny!! ☺ Around 14 days+ is absolutely fine as well, but sometimes you need to be a bit flexible with your desired shots as they are less sleepy and curly ("womb-like"), making the posed shots a little more challenging to achieve. Sometimes parents prefer it when they are a little older because you can

capture different shots such as eyes open awake shots and already see their personalities coming through. If you're a C-section mummy, I can always work around this. I appreciate that recovery can be slower, and you may not feel ready to leave your home so early on. We can push the date back until you feel better, or we can agree to hold the shoot in the comfort of your own home, if that makes it easier for you.

There are typically six different styles of shots that we can take during your session to tell your baby's story. Usually it would be difficult to do all of them in one session so I ask that you advise me of 3-4 of your favourite styles that we can prioritise. Also, some are more suited to a studio environment and some to home visits. Below you can see details and examples of each to help you decide:

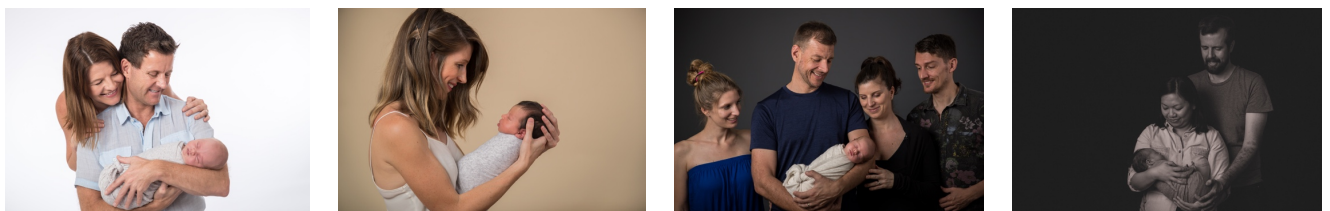
1) **Close-up macro:** detailed shots of your babies' cute little feet, hands and facial feature. These can be captured within both a studio and home visit setting.



2) **Boutique:** shots of your baby using creative lighting and black backgrounds. These can be captured within both a studio and home visit setting.



3) **Family:** family-style portraits including; full family together, mom and baby, dad and baby, siblings and even your pets are welcome. We can use either white, grey, black or cream coloured backgrounds. These shots typically require a studio setting if you want the coloured backgrounds. But family shots can also be taken during home visits in style No.6 detailed below.



4) **Beanbag poser:** your baby is photographed in the traditional newborn style on my beanbag poser, using different blankets, wraps, swaddles, hats and headbands. These shots are better suited to a studio environment.



5) **Baskets & Props:** using cute different basket, bucket, bed etc. props to take photos of your baby inside or on them. These shots are better suited to a studio environment but can also be done during home visits.



6) **Lifestyle:** photos of you and your baby in a more natural style around your own home and utilising natural light more. These are only during a home visit.



I have lots of props, baskets, blankets, hats, wraps etc, so don't worry if you don't have much yet. But please do bring your own too if you like, as it's nice when the images are more personal to you and your family. Any props that you have, like hats, hair-bands, bracelets, wedding rings, baby shoes or anything sentimental, please let me know and bring them along so we can incorporate them into the shoot.

In terms of the best start time for the session; with the younger newborns we tend to have flexibility of any time during the day. This is because newborns are yet to develop much of a sleeping pattern and usually sleep up to 3 hours at a time between feeds, so if we need to settle them, we just take a little break and they can have a feed. But all babies are different and older newborns may have more of a pattern, so if your little treasure is sleepest at specific time of the day, that's fine, we can have the session around that time. They are, after all, the boss, so we'll work around them! 😊



Shoots usually take around 3 hours depending on how sleepy and happy your newborn is but plan on them being away from home for 3-4 hours and allow for your travel time. If your little one is a bit older (3-4 weeks+), wide awake or unsettled, this can increase the length of the shoot but that is fine, we are in no rush. Not all of the session is spent photographing; much of the time is spent feeding, nappy changing, switching blankets and props, soothing your baby or cleaning up the occasional poop (yes, it does happen more than you'd think, but that's ok).

I mainly work out of my home studio, but we can also arrange the shoot in the comfort of your own home (for an additional call-out fee); during these sessions we tend to capture more natural "lifestyle" photos. I can however bring some pre agreed props, wraps, blankets, etc. to allow us to get some of the more studio looking shots too. And we can still, of course, get a full range of baby alone, dad and baby, mom and baby, full family and the cute little close-up shots of hands, feet and facial features.

Babies are best photographed on a nice full tummy as this is when they are sleepest and happiest; aren't we all, hey? Please try to time the last feed so that you finish just as you are arriving because if you feed them at home, they'll sleep during the journey and not in the studio. Not so good! 😊 If your baby is still hungry once you've arrived, another feed can be given before starting the shoot. Another tip for a sleepy baby session is to try to keep your baby awake as much as possible in the hours leading up to the agreed start time, but only if it's convenient. Some shots they need to be asleep for and others are just easier to capture if your baby is asleep. Rest assured that they don't need to be asleep all of the time though, just happy and settled. Often the wide-awake ones can be nice as you can see their eyes and the occasional smile.

If you already own one, it's always nice to have a pacifier just in case. I have multiple pacifiers that we can use if you don't own one and we can quickly sterilise it before use. This'll help us both to sooth your baby in between poses, but not everyone's a fan of them, so it's not a problem if you'd rather not. Any baby soothing apps on your phone that your baby is used to are also helpful. I usually play white noise and womb sounds throughout the shoot to relax your baby. They tend to love it!!

Some of the photos I take are with your baby without any clothes on, or sometimes with a nappy on if we can hide it with various wraps and props. This helps show how tiny and precious they are and it's easier to capture all their wonderful, tiny features.

It's useful if you bring plenty of spare nappies and clothes as sometimes, as I've already mentioned, toilet habits don't always go as planned! Because your baby is naked or half dressed, my studio or your home, need to be the right temperature for different photos. When photographing your baby on their own it's best to keep the room(s) warmer (around 27-28 degrees) as they cannot regulate their body temperature and lose heat much more easily than us. For the group and family shots it's best to cool the room(s) down with aircon to avoid any signs of sweating due to the Singapore heat. For these reasons, I recommend arriving in your casual comfy clothes and then you can change into your outfits when needed for the family photos.

During the first 14 days of life, your baby will likely have some dry or patchy skin. Please DON'T be tempted to apply oil or cream before the shoot as this will make your baby's skin shiny during the shoot. It's much easier for me to edit out some flaky skin than shiny skin.

In terms of clothing, during the photos of your baby alone I keep the studio quite warm because sometimes your baby is not wearing much or naked for the shoot and we need to keep them warm and comfortable. I usually start with these photos so it's good to arrive in casual light clothes and then change later when we start the family photos. For the family photos I keep my studio nice and cool (at this point your baby will be wrapped up warm) to avoid any shiny skin but you still need to be in comfortable clothing and try to avoid anything that will show signs of sweating. For Mum, Dad, siblings and grandparents I usually recommend avoiding crazy patterned and big logo clothing. This is just because busy clothing tends to draw the attention of the photos away from your faces and your baby. Generally, I think smart casual looks nice and ideally try to wear similar colour tones to each other (ie. avoid one of you being in black and the other in white), for example; both in light colours or both in dark colours looks great. But please don't think that you are restricted to just lights and darks, you can wear any other colour tones you like. Also at the end of the day this isn't set in stone, this is just a guide and my recommendation. If in doubt, just bring a few options. It's always good to bring a few outfits in case one gets messy from the baba. :) It does happen!!

Multiple different colour options for clothing work well in terms of the background colour you choose to use during the family shots. For example, if we are using a white background, some people like to dress in lighter tones to keep everything neutral and some people prefer darker clothes to have more contrast from the white background. The same applies when using darker backgrounds.

Dad with a bare chest or Mum with a strapless top holding the baby can create incredibly intimate images too. These are known as "skin-on-skin" shots, but I know they're not for everyone. Have a chat with me beforehand if this is something you are comfortable with and want to try.



## After Your Shoot

Now you can go home, sit back, relax and soon you'll have all your beautiful images!

Firstly, I'll go through the images from your shoot and select the cream of the crop. Once I have the "final cut" selected, I'll fully edit these photos. Unlike some photography companies, I believe that the price you pay for the session should include access to all your final edited photos. I'm very proud of my work and I want to share all the images with you without making you decide what you can afford, or making you pay extra for them. You deserve them all and I don't hold photos to ransom!!

In my editing, I'll provide a balance of warm, colourful photos and turn some into various black and white style shots if I feel they are better suited to that style and also to provide variation. Your edited images will be ready within 7-10 days, and I'll email them to you as soon as they are ready. You will receive your own personal online gallery where you can view and download the high-resolution JPEG images at anytime from anywhere in the world. It's set up so you can easily share the images with friends and family by just giving them your password and login details.

If you wish to purchase one of my beautiful, fully customisable photo albums, or if you'd like me to have certain pictures printed for you on a canvas or framing, I offer this as an additional service. The choice is yours! If the answer is "Yes please," then you can visit my *Packages* page for rates and pop me an email with what you want.

If you decide to get your images printed yourself, there are a few things to keep in mind. Firstly, your pictures are all sized to be 4x6", which is the standard ratio at which my camera captures images. If you want to increase or change the size, be careful of cropping the photo as you'll be altering the ratio of the image.

Secondly, please note that the photos are currently set to the highest resolution quality for printing at 4x6" standard print sizes. If you would like to print them at a larger size or on a canvas, please be sure to contact me with the relevant photos and desired sizes. I can then resize them so that you don't lose any picture quality when blowing them up. The only reason I don't do this already is because the image file sizes can be very large and sharing lots of them would be difficult. And finally, if you're going to get your images printed elsewhere, make sure you tell them NOT to "autocorrect", as this'll change the colour and style of the images and erase all my editing.